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SOURCE: House Armed Services Committee

Global War on Terrorism Update

To Quote

"We 're making good progress," President Bush said. "Sometimes it's hard to tell it when you listen to the filter." *Washington Times*, 10/7/03

David Kay told host Tony Snow on "Fox News Sunday" that while his team has yet to find illicit weapons, "I'm sort of amazed that what was powerful information about both (the former Iraqi regime's) intent and their actual activities that were not known and were hidden from (United Nations) inspectors seems not to have made it to the press. This is information (that), if it had been available last year, would have been headline news." American Forces Press Service, 10/5/03

"For decades, Iraq's army served the interests of a dictator. Today, a new army is serving the Iraqi people" said President Bush in his weekly radio address praising a battalion of newly retrained Iraqi soldiers.

Findings of David Kay and the Iraq Survey Group (ISG)

Three months of searching by the chief U.S. arms inspector in Iraq has produced unmistakable evidence that Saddam Hussein was, in fact, hiding prohibited weapons programs from United Nations inspectors, that Iraq was preserving the option of resuming chemical and biological weapons production, and that a potential nuclear weapons program was being held in abeyance pending an easing of international pressure.

In addition, Kay's inspectors turned up proof that Iraq was actively seeking to extend the range of its ballistic missiles in violation of U.N. limitations imposed in 1991 at the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Moreover, Iraqi documents show that Saddam Hussein's government was



Photo: Hussein Malla, AP
UN inspectors file documents during a visit to the home of Iraqi physicist Faleh Hassan. Inspections of the house, and the neighboring home of nuclear scientist Shaker el-Jibouri, were the first at private residences.



attempting to purchase prohibited long-range missiles from North Korea, and hiding that from U.N. weapons inspectors as well.

In addition to the known ammo depots, there are untold numbers of covert weapons caches around the country. These caches have been the source of much of the ordnance used in improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to attack American and coalition forces. Whether any of these contain WMD remains unknown at this juncture. But if they do, IEDs could, in the future, be vastly more devastating—especially to unprotected Iraqis in proximity to the attack.

Converting deadly disease to weapons



Photo: Jassim Mohammed, AP
A group of weapons inspectors pictured before examining physicist Faleh Hassan's Baghdad home.

Kay and his team found strains of organisms concealed in a scientist's home, and one of the strains could be used to produce biological agents.

The ISG received from an Iraqi scientist "reference strains" for one of the most lethal substances known to man: Botulinum toxin. In short order, with the right equipment and growth material—items Saddam was able to acquire and retain since they could also be used for commercial purposes—such strains could translate into large quantities of biological agents.

Kay's report indicates new research on biological warfare applicable agents, Brucella and Congo Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever, and continuing work on ricin and aflatoxin were also not declared to the U.N.

According to Kay, Hussein "kept alive Iraq's capability to produce both biological and chemical weapons. We found assassination tools. So we know that, in fact, they had a prohibited intent to use them."

For now, however, the obvious conclusion from even this interim report is that pre-emptive military action did preclude the future threat apparent in Kay's discoveries. There is every reason to believe, based on Saddam Hussein's past crimes and aggression that he posed a threat to his own people, to his neighbors and, sooner or later, to those he considered his international archenemies, the United States and its principal allies.

Human Rights Abuses

The most horrible evidence of Iraq's WMD programs are the Kurds and others killed with chemical weapons. Further, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands more Iraqis will be found in the mass graves currently being exhumed.

Saddam Hussein's attacks on Kurdish civilians in northern Iraq included the worst ever chemical weapons attack against a civilian population, mass summary executions, disappearances, arbitrary jailing and warehousing, forced displacement, and destruction of thousands of villages, including schools, mosques, farms, and power stations.

Saddam's regime regularly conducted mass executions that sometimes involved whole towns, but his government frequently preferred lengthy methods that inflicted more pain on the victim and his or her family.

The regime sometimes poisoned political prisoners with a slow-acting poison, thallium, which gradually infiltrates the system, extending death over several days. It often decapitated other victims before family members. At other times, they were shot in front of family members, who were then charged for the cost of the bullet.

Afghanistan

The task in Afghanistan represents a unique type of international crisis, requiring the United States and other members of the international community to continue the war on terrorism and provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in tandem. Nothing short of a long-term commitment will suffice in ensuring that Afghanistan does not return to a hot bed of illegal drugs and terrorism. Beyond international help in providing for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, the Administration's FY 2004 supplemental aid request includes funds to continue our work in Afghanistan by addressing security conditions and targeting programs to improve the lives of the Afghan people.

In Afghanistan this week, New Zealand took command of the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team from the United States. The transfer of authority marks a continuation in the growth and participation of coalition partners in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan.

Iraq



A battalion of newly retrained Iraqi soldiers, marching to the beat of a U.S. Army band; Saturday completed a nine-week basic course to become the first unit of a revived military. The 700 graduating troops, including 65 officers, will be the core "of an army that will defend its country and not oppress it," said Paul Bremer.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. James M. Bowman
Army Division marching in the streets of Iraq.

Quotes of the Week

“What the world knew last November about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction programs was enough to justify the threat of serious consequences under Resolution 1441. What we now know as a result of David Kay’s efforts confirms that Hussein had every intention of continuing his work on banned weapons despite the U.N. inspectors, and that we and our coalition partners were right to eliminate the danger that his regime posed to the world.” – Secretary of State Colin Powell

“President Bush was right: This was an evil regime, lethal to its own people, in deepening material breach of its Security Council obligations, and a threat to international peace and security. Hussein would have stopped at nothing until something stopped him. It’s a good thing that we did.” –Secretary of State Colin Powell

All information in this issue is unclassified. Sources include Department of Defense and media reports.